

## **ELDER ABUSE**

A homecare worker is required by law not to share private information about their employer and to report any suspected abuse. If they are convicted of breaking these laws, they could be sentenced up to 6 months in jail and/or pay a \$1,000 fine.

**Elder Abuse:** Recognizing and reporting it.

Report elder abuse if you suspect it or it happens to you. Elder abuse and neglect is a serious and growing problem. The growing number of elderly people requiring in-home care has exposed more families to the stresses that can result in abuse and neglect when support is not available. It is important to remember such abuse can exist in any situation where a person is dependent on someone else for care. An ill or otherwise disabled person of any age may be abused by a caregiver, family member, friend or neighbor.

**Abuse is mistreatment or neglect and can take the following forms:**

- **Psychological Abuse:**  
Infliction of mental anguish by demeaning, name-calling, insulting, ignoring, humiliating, frightening, threatening, isolating, etc.
- **Material/Financial Abuse:**  
Illegally or unethically exploiting by using funds, property, or other assets of an older person for personal gain, etc.
- **Active Neglect:**  
Intentional failure to fulfill care giving obligations, infliction of physical or emotional stress or injury, abandonment, denial of food, medication, or personal hygiene, etc.
- **Passive Neglect:**  
Unintentional failure to fulfill care giving obligations: infliction of distress without conscious, willful intent, etc.
- **Physical Abuse:**  
Infliction of physical pain or injury, physical coercion, confinement, slapping, bruising, sexually molesting, cutting, lacerating, burning, restraining, pushing, shoving, etc.

### **Elder Abuse Reporting Requirements:**

California law requires employees and volunteers who work with elders to report suspected elder abuse to the appropriate authorities. It is also important for you, the client, to report suspected abuse by phone within 24n hours. You may be asked to submit an Abuse Report form.

**Adult Protective Services 24 Hour Hotline:** 1-800-414-2002 or (408) 975-4900